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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applic. No. : 09/688,463 ✓ Confirmation No. 1413
Applicant : Gotthard Schmid
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Examiner : Ren Luo Yan
Title : Modular Printing Machine System for Printing on Sheets

DECLARATION under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

The undersigned Gotthard Schmid, inventor of the invention of the instant application and one of the inventors of the cited prior art reference Schmid et al. (US Pat. No. 6,101,944), hereby declares:

Schmid et al. do not disclose a zoneless metering device, that is, a person of skill in the art reviewing the disclosure of the reference would immediately be led to believe that the reference utilizes ink zone-dependent metering. Reference numeral 60 in Fig. 3 of Schmid et al. points to a fountain pan with a fountain roller and a ductor roller in contact with it. Such fountain rollers and fountain-type ink trains, according to the state of the art, are provided with an adjustable ink blade or the like having ink keys which provide for ink key adjustments, i.e., zonal adjustment of the ink feed. A person of skill in the art reviewing the Schmid et al. reference, therefore, would not consider zoneless inking, that is an ink feed from the ink supply that is not varied across the print width.

More specifically, the reference Schmid et al. does not show or suggest a metering device that is formed with a screen roller and a doctor blade or that is formed with a trough and a dip roller that dips into the ink trough.

The undersigned declares that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further

that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Gotthard Schmid

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Dec 10th, 2003